

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT HAVANA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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SUBJECT: NORTH AFRICAN VIEWS ON ERITREA

SUMMARY: LIBYAN AND EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS WITH SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) JULY 11, EXPRESSED THEIR GOVERNMENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD ERITREA. LIBYA APPEARS TO BE IN DILEMMA ABOUT OPPOSING ERITREANS, WHOM THEY FORMERLY SUPPORTED, BY CONTINUING ITS SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. EGYPTIANS SUGGEST RETURN TO 1950 UN FORMULA FOR FEDERATION. END SUMMARY

1. DURING COURSE OF OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN KHARTOUM, LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY DR. ALI ABD AL-SALAM AL-TURAYKI GRANTED INTERVIEW TO SUNA. AMONG SUBJECTS WHICH HE SPOKE ABOUT WAS LIBYA'S STANCE ON ERITREAN QUESTION. HE
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ACKNOWLEDGED LIBYA HAD SUPPORTED ERITREAN REVOLUTION AS STEP TOWARD ELIMINATING FORMER REACTIONARY IMPERIAL REGIME IN ETHIOPIA. HOWEVER, NOW THAT REVOLUTION HAD EMERGED IN ETHIOPIA, WITH NATIONALIZATION OF RURAL "ESTATES" AND RESTORATION OF MOSLEM RIGHTS, ETHIOPIA HAS REALIZED PRIORITY SOCIAL OBJECTIVES. HE ASSERTED THAT LIBYA HAD COMMUNICATED TO ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES THAT FORMER

WISHED TO SEE ERITREAN QUESTION SETTLED PEACEFULLY. TURAYKI FURTHER DISCLOSED THAT MEETINGS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL SOLUTION HAD BEEN HELD "ELSEWHERE." HE ADDED THAT LIBYA WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN ANY CONSPIRACY TO LIQUIDATE THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AND EXPLOIT ERITREA. HOWEVER, TURAYKI ALSO REITERATED ARAB POSITION THAT RED SEA IS AN ARAB SEA, REINFORCING ETHIOPIA'S BELIEF THAT IMPERIALIST PLOTS ARE TRYING TO TURN RED SEA INTO ARAB LAKE.

2. EGYPTIAN FONMIN DR. BUTROS GHALI ALSO GAVE INTERVIEW TO SUNA DURING WHICH HE TOUCHED ON ERITREAN QUESTION. GHALI SAID ISSUE INVOLVED TWO PRINCIPLES, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. QUESTION WAS HOW TO CONCILIATE BETWEEN THESE TWO PRINCIPLES. GHALI STATED, "I THINK 1950 UN RESOLUTION WHICH PROVIDES FOR SORT OF REDERATION BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA MIGHT HAVE BEEN FORMULA THAT BRINGS TOGETHER THESE TWO PRINCIPLES."

3. COMMENT: TURAYKI'S EQUIVOCAL REMARKS REFELCT DIFFICULT POSITION LIBYANS NOW FIND THEMSELVES IN VIS-A-VIS ERITREA, WHEREBY IN SUPPORTING ETHIOPIA THEY ARE OPPOSING A "MOSLEM" LIBERATION MOVEMENT. FOR MOMENT, LIBYA'S IDEOLOGICAL CONSDERATIONS APPEAR TO HAVE GREATER INFLUENCE OVER ITS POLICY THAN RELIGIOUS ONES. GHALI SUGGESTION OF FORMULA SIMILAR TO 1950 UN RESOLUTION TO SOLVE ERITREAN QUESTION DOES NOT SEEM TO REPRESENT NEW EGYPTIAN POSITION, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT RATHER ITS HOPE FOR NON-MILIARY SOLUTION THAT WILL MEET NEEDS OF BOTH ETHIOPIANS AND ERITREANS. BERGUS

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